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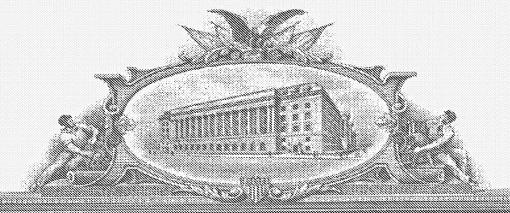
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		- IN	IVENTOR(S)					
Given Name (first and midd	lle [if any])	Family	Name or Surnar	me	(City and eith	Resider er State o	nce or Foreign Country)	
Jeff			Cooper	1	Roo	ky Hill, Ne	ew Jersey	
Jill			Boyce		Man	alapan, Ne	ew Jersey	
Additional inventors are bei								<u> </u>
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Customer Number								0.00
OR	<u> </u>							1 <sup>2</sup> 9
Firm or Individual Name	JOSEPH S. T	RIPOLI, TI	HOMSON LICEN	NSING II	NC.			
Address	PATENT OPE	RATIONS						
Address	P. O. BOX 53	12						
City	PRINCETON		State	NJ	<u>-</u>	ZIP	08543-5312	_
Country	USA		Telephone		734-6834	Fax	609 - 734-6888	4
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	INVENTOR(S)/APPLICAN	T(S)
Given Name (first and middle [if any])	Family or Surname	Residence (City and either State or Foreign Country)
Alexandros	Tourapis	West Windsor, New Jersey
Cristina	Gomila	Princeton, New Jersey
Joan	Llach	Princeton, New Jersey
Peng	Yin	West Windsor, New Jersey
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[Page 2 of 2]

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PU030308

## Film Grain Simulation and Comfort Noise Addition Specification for DirecTV A3 System

#### 1 INTRODUCTION

This document provides a specification for film grain simulation and comfort noise addition in a DirecTV A3 system.

The film grain simulation is based on the contribution JVT-I013r2 [1] adopted at the 7th JVT meeting. Constraints of the DirecTV system regarding the value of the parameters of the SEI message and some implementation aspects are described.

Comfort noise addition reuses hardware elements of the film grain simulation to hide compression artifacts.

#### 2 FILM GRAIN SIMULATION

#### 2.1 FILM GRAIN SEI Message Constraints

The film grain generator makes use of the parameters specified in the SEI message described in [1, 2]. Limitations regarding the SEI message are described.

Film grain SEI messages may only be sent preceding I pictures, and only one film grain SEI message may precede a particular I picture. I pictures are indicated by slice\_type equal to 7, or by nal\_ref\_ide equal to 5.

model\_id shall be 0. This identifies the film grain simulation model as frequency filtering.

**colour\_space\_id** shall be 0. This identifies the color space in which the parameters of the SEI message have been estimated as YCbCr.

**blending\_mode\_id** shall be 0. This identifies the blending mode used to blend the simulated film grain with the decoded images as additive.

log2 scale\_factor shall be in the range [2, 7].

comp1\_param\_present\_flag shall be 0. This prevents the transmission of film grain parameters for the Cb color component.

comp2\_param\_present\_flag shall be 0. This prevents the transmission of film grain parameters for the Cr color component.

**no\_intensity\_intervals\_minus1[0]** shall be in the range [0, 7]. This gives the number of intensity intervals for which a specific set of parameters has been estimated.

intensity\_interval\_lower\_bound[0][i+1] >
intensity\_interval\_upper\_bound[0][i] for i=0...6. This indicates that multigenerational film grain is not supported.

no\_param\_minus1[0] shall be in the range [0,2]. Low-pass modeling and cross-color correlation are not used.

param[0][i]'[0] shall be in the range [0, 255].

param[0][i][1] shall be in the range [3, 15].

param[0][i][2] shall be in the range [3, 15] and shall be transmitted only when not equal to param[0][i][1]. When both parameters are transmitted, the allowed only the pair of values are listed in Table 1 are allowed.

param[ 0 ][ i ][ 1 ]	param[ 0 ][ i ][ 2 ]
4	3
6	4
7	5
8	6
10	7
11	8
13	9
14	10
15	11

15	12
15	13
15	14
15	15

Table 1.

All the other parameters of the SEI message have no constraint with respect to the standard specification.

#### 2.2 Film grain Implementation aspects

Film grain addition involves two distinct steps of operation. First, an initialization process is performed when an SEI message is received preceding an I picture, in which a pool of film grain blocks is created. Then, prior to display, a simple process is applied to add the stored film grain blocks to each luma pixel of each decoded picture.

#### 2.2.1 Initialization at SEI message receipt to create film grain block pool

Upon receipt of a film grain SEI message, an initialization process is performed to create a pool of 4,096 (512x8) film grain pixel values for each of up to 8 different luma intensity intervals. The number of luma intensity intervals is indicated by 1 plus the SEI message field no\_intensity\_intervals\_minus1[0]. Generation of the film grain samples begins with the lowest luma intensity interval.

Bit-accurate simulation of the film grain noise can be accomplished using a specified uniform pseudo-random number generator polynomial and using a specified database of film grain patterns. The database of film grain patterns is composed of 13 sets of 4,096 (512x8) values each. The values are stored in 2's complement form and range from [-127, 127]. The list of values for each set is shown in the Appendix.

The process to obtain the film grain pixel values for a particular luma intensity interval s is shown in the block diagram of Figure 1. The process specifies the access to the database of film grain patterns, the scaling of the values, and their storage into the pool as follows:

for( i = 0..4,095)  
v = param[0][s][0] \* database[ m ][ n ][ i ]  
pool[ s ][ i ] = (((v + 
$$2^{\log 2_{\text{scale\_factor}} - 1}) >> \log 2_{\text{scale\_factor}}) + 32) >> 6$$

where n is equal to param [0][s][2] - 3, m is equal to 0 when **no\_param\_minus1[0]** is 1 and equal to 1 otherwise, and the factor 6 scales the film grain values provided in the Appendix.

This process is performed as many times as indicated by 1 plus the SEI message field no\_intensity\_intervals\_minus1[0].

#### 2.2.2 Block and pixel operations prior to pixel display

The operations performed to add film grain to the decoded picture at block and pixel level are shown in Figure 2. For each 8x8 block of the decoded image, the average of the luma pixel values is computed and compared to the SEI message intensity\_interval\_low-r\_bound[0][i] and intensity\_interval\_upper\_bound[0][i] parameters to determine the correct luma intensity interval for the block.

A uniform random number generator, using a primitive polynomial modulo 2 operator,  $x^{18} + x^5 + x^2 + x^1 + 1$ , is used to select film grain blocks from the pool. Let x(i, e) indicate the i-th symbol of the sequence x, beginning with an initial seed e. (The seed is set to 1 upon the receipt of each film grain SEI message.) The offset for the current 8x8 block of film grain is generated as follows:

```
previous_offset = offset
offset = (x(i, 1) % 4,088 )>> 2
offset ^= (index == previous_offset)
offset <<= 2</pre>
```

where offset has been initialized to 0 after the creation of the pool. After the calculation of the offset, the 8x8 block of film grain is extracted from the pool as follows:

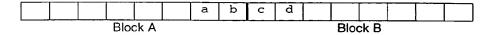
```
for (i=0..7, j=0..7)
block[i][j] = pool[s][offset + i + j*4096]
```

Before blending the film grain block with the decoded image, deblocking of the pixels on the left and right columns of the block is performed as described in Section 2.2.2.1. The deblocked film grain block is then added to the decoded pixels and the result clipped to [0, 255] for display. Film grain noise is only added to luma pixels.

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#### 2.2.2.1 Deblocking filter

As suggested in [1], a deblocking filter shall be applied on the film grain image before blending to smooth the blocking artifacts resulting from the small size of the transform. The deblocking filter is implemented by means of a 3-tap filter applied to all pixels bordering the 8x8 block left and right edges. Given a row of pixels belonging to two adjacent 8x8 blocks, the transition between blocks being located between pixels b and c,



the filter is applied as follows:

$$b' = (a + (b << 1) + c) >> 2$$
  
 $c' = (b + (c << 1) + d) >> 2$ 

where b' and c' replace the value of the original pixels b and c, respectively. Deblocking of the left and right block edges is done for every block at display time.

#### 3 COMFORT NOISE SPECIFICATION

Comfort noise addition is used to hide compression artifacts. Comfort noise addition and film grain simulation are not used at the same time. Unlike film grain simulation, it is not intended to match a pre-specified noise pattern (i.e. film grain).

A custom SEI message is proposed to enable turning comfort noise on and off, as well as indicating the level of noise to add, based on the expected level of compression artifacts.

Comfort noise addition utilizes several of the film grain simulation hardware elements.

#### 3.1 Comfort noise SEI message

We propose use of a registered user data SEI message to indicate the use of comfort noise. It applies to all pictures that follow, until an IDR or a new comfort noise or film grain SEI message arrives. Comfort noise SEI messages may only be sent preceding I pictures, and only one

comfort noise SEI message may precede a particular I picture. I pictures are indicated by slice\_type equal to 7, or by nal\_ref\_idc equal to 5.

user_data_registered_itu_t_t35( payloadSize ) {	С	Descriptor
itu_t_t35_country_code	5	b(8)
itu_t_t35_payload_byte	5	b(8)
comfort_noise_flag	5	u(1)
if (comfort_noise_flag == 1) {		
comfort_noise_qp_offset_idc	5	ue(v)
comfort_noise_qp_weight_offset_idc	. 5	ue(v)
}		
}	:	

**comfort\_noise\_flag** equal to 1 indicates that comfort noise addition is used. **comfort\_noise\_flag** equal to 0 indicates that comfort noise addition is not used.

**comfort\_noise\_qp\_offset\_idc** indicates the quantization parameter offset used in the calculation of the additive comfort noise level, and may range in value from -51 to 52.

comfort\_noise\_qp\_weight\_offset\_idc indicates a quantization parameter weight offset used in the calculation of the additive comfort noise level, and may range in value from -6 to 7.

#### 3.2 Comfort noise implementation aspects

Comfort noise addition includes operations performed at the block level, and operations performed at the pixel level. A key difference between film grain and comfort noise is the temporal correlation of additive comfort noise.

#### 3.2.1 Block level operations

Per block operations are performed to calculate relative weights of the three terms used for comfort noise generation, as shown in Figure 3. The inputs to this process are decoded luma

pixels, the picture QP = (pic\_init\_qp\_minus26 + 26), and the comfort\_noise\_qp\_offset\_idc and comfort\_noise\_qp\_weight\_offset\_idc from the comfort noise SEI message.

The current picture number is indicated by t. t is reset to 0 for the I picture that follows a comfort noise SEI message. The average of the 8x8 luma pixel block of the current picture, t, is calculated as block\_avg(t) and compared to a threshold. If block\_avg(t)  $\rightarrow \leq 10$ , block\_avg\_level = 1, otherwise block\_avg\_level = 0.

The absolute difference of the current luma block average with respect to the co-located block from the previous displayed picture is calculated, where t-1 indicates the previous displayed picture, and compared to a threshold. If lblock\_avg(t) - block\_avg(t-1)l > 3, block\_absdiff\_level = 0, otherwise block\_absdiff\_level = 1. If t is equal to 0, block\_absdiff\_level = 1.

For SD resolutions and below, all pixel and block operations are done using the display resolution. For HD resolutions, block operations are performed using 2x2 sub-sampled pixels (using the upper left pixel of 2x2 pixels), so the 8x8 luma pixel avg involves adding 8x8 = 64 pixel values, but these values are spread over a 16x16 pixel range. For SD resolutions, storage of the block\_avg values for the entire picture requires storage of 1/64 the size of a frame store. For HD resolutions, storage of block\_avg values requires a storage of 1/256 the size of a frame store.

The values of comfort noise qp offset idc, comfort noise qp weight offset idc, and picture OP, are used in the calculation of an intermediate weight w<sub>q</sub> which is calculated as follows:

 $w_q = (\text{clip}((\text{weight}(\text{clip}(QP + \text{comfort noise qp offset idc}, 0,51)) + \text{comfort noise qp weight offset idc}),0,7)$ 

where weight(Q) is defined in Table 2Table 1.

THE ROST OF THE ST	.0	1	2	3	1	5	6	7	Q	O	10	7.7	12
weight (O)	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>Q</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4</u> 0	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u> <u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>0</u>	$\frac{12}{0}$
Q 4 65 4	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u>	22	<u>23</u>	24	<u>25</u>
weight(0)	0	· <u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	1	1	1	2	2	2
<b>@</b>	26	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>33</u>	34	<i>35</i>	36	37	38
weight(O)	3	<u>3</u>	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	<u>5</u>	5	5
	<u>39</u>	<u>40</u>	41	42	<u>43</u>	44	<u>45</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>48</u>	49	50	51
	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	5	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	6	<u>6</u>	6	6	<u>6</u>

Table 21. weight(Q) lookup table

The value of  $w_q$ , which needs to be computed only once for each picture, and the values of block avg level and block absdiff level are then input to a lookup table to find the values of the final weights,  $w_0$ ,  $w_1$ , and  $w_f$ , which are used in the pixel level operations.

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<b>⊠</b> d	block_absdiff_level	block avg level	. <u>Ш</u> .	业	S.
AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PERSON	0				
	0	<u>0</u>	0	0	0
0	1	<u>1</u> 0	0	0	0
	1	1	0	0	<u>0</u> 0
	0	0	12	_	
	0	1	12	<u>11</u>	<u>25</u> 19
1 1	1	0	30	<u>8</u> 10	19
	1	1	30	7	11
	0	0	23	22	50
	0 .	1	23	17	38
2	1	0	60	20	<u> 28</u>
	1	1	60	14	<u>28</u> 21
	0	0	35	34	76
	0	1	35	25	<u>78</u> 57
<u>3</u>	1	0	90	29	42
	1	1	90	21	32
	0	0	47	45	101
	<u>0</u>	<u> </u>	47	34	76
4	1	0	120	39	56
	1	<u> </u>	120	28	42
	0	0	59	56	126
	0	1 1	59	42	95
5	1	0	150	49	70
	1	1	150	35	53
	0	0	70	67	151
	0	<u>1</u>	70	50	113
6	1	0	179	59	84
	1	1	179	42	63
	0 .	0	82	78	176
	0	1	82	59	132
7	<u> </u>	0	209	69	98
	<u> </u>	1	209	49	74

Table 32. Lookup table for comfort noise generation.

Note that the determination of the current picture structure is based on display rather than coding structure. For interlaced display, pixels from the current field and previous field are used in the calculations. For progressive display, pixels from the current frame and previous frame are used in the calculations.

The values of block\_avg\_level and block\_absdiff\_level are input to a lookup table to find the values of sw<sub>0</sub>, sw<sub>4</sub>-and sw<sub>6</sub>.



Table 2. Lookup table

These values [ $sw_0$ ,  $sw_1$ ,  $sw_f$ ] and the values of the picture QP, comfort\_noise\_qp\_offset\_ide, and comfort\_noise\_qp\_weight\_offset\_ide are then used in the calculation of the final weights,  $w_0$ ,  $w_1$  and  $w_f$ , which are used in the pixel level operations.

												_	
Will Q	θ	+	2	_ 3	4	<del>5</del>	6	7	8	9	10	#	12
weight(Q)	9	θ	θ.	θ	· 0	θ	θ	θ	θ	θ	. 0	θ	θ
Pine Q	<del>13</del>	14	<del>] 5</del>	<del>16</del>	<del>17</del>	<del>18</del>	19	<del>20</del>	21	22	23	24	25
weight(Q)	9	θ	θ	0	. 0	θ	θ	1	1	1	2	2	2
W. P. Q	26	27	<del>28</del>	<del>29</del>	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i>	32	33	34	<i>35</i>	<del>36</del>	<del>37</del>	<del>38</del>
weight(Q)	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	<del>5</del>	5
$\mathbf{Q}$	39	40	44	42	43	44	4 <del>5</del>	46	47	48	49	<del>50</del>	<del>51</del>
weight(Q)	5	5	5	5	· <del>5</del>	5	5	6	6	6	6	6	6

Table 3. weight(Q)-lookup-table

With-weight(Q) defined in Table 2,

$$W_{+} = SW_{+} \stackrel{*}{-} W_{0}$$

$$W_f = SW_f * W_q$$

The above multiplies could be completely avoided if implemented with the use of a larger lookup table that also considers the value of  $w_q$ , and which can immediately compute  $w_0$ ,  $w_1$ , and  $w_f$  without the intermediate calculations of  $sw_0$ ,  $sw_1$ , and  $sw_f$ :

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0	1	<del>1</del>	0	0	Φ
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				0	9
	9	θ	9		3
	-			6 1 2	9
	0	4	9	1	크
4				2	7
1	1	θ	2	<del>1</del> 4	2
			3	4	θ
	+	+	2	1	1
		L	3	1 0	5
	θ	θ	1 8		7
			8	.3 3	2
	θ	+	1	2	5
_	9		8	2 4	0 0 3 6 2 7 2 0 1 5 4
2	+	0	4	2	4
			6	8 5	9
		4	1	2	2
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	+	+	1 8 4 6 4 6	2 0	4 0 3 0

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+ + 0	1				θ	θ	+	+	θ	θ	1	1	θ	θ
0 0	1	1	θ		+	0	1	θ	1	θ	1	θ	4	0
1 1 5 1 1 5 4	1 5 1 5 4 5	1 5 1 5	1 1 5		4 5	9 2 9 2 4 5	5	5	<del>3</del>		2 7 6 9 6 9 3 6	<del>6</del>	2 7	<del>2</del> 7
7 0 5 0	7 0 5 0	7 0 5 0	7 0		6	5 4 0 8 0	4 0	<del>5</del>	4 8	3 6 4 2 3 0 6 4	3 0	4	3 6	4 8
2 1 6 1 6 2	5 1 0 0 7 5	5 0 0 7 5	5 1 0 0	5	1 3	1 8 0	6	8	1 0 8	1 4 4	4 5	6	8 <del>1</del>	1 0 8

	1	1	1	6	9
			3	6 0	θ
			ક		
	θ	θ	1 3 8 6 3	1	2
			3	+	5
				3	3
	θ	+	6	+ 2 8 4	+
ľ			3	4	ક
7					9
7	1	θ	1	8 0	1
			6	8	4
			1		θ
	+	1	1 1 6 1 6	7 0	1
			6	θ	0
			+		Q 5 Q + 8 9 + 4 0 + 0 5

Table 4. Expanded lookup table for multiplication avoidance.

Note that the determination of the current picture structure is based on display rather than coding structure. For interlaced display, pixels from the current field and previous field are used in the calculations. For progressive display, pixels from the current frame and previous frame are used in the calculations.

#### 3.2.2 Pixel level operations

The comfort noise pixel level operations use the same pre-stored Gaussian random number list and primitive polynomial generator as the film grain simulation. Three distinct primitive polynomial uniform random number patterns are used within the comfort noise generation process.

For SD resolutions, the pixel level operations are performed for all luma pixels, and the generated luma noise value is applied to both luma and chroma pixels. Let pic\_width = PicWidthInSamples<sub>L</sub>.

For HD resolutions, the pixel level operations are performed on ¼ of the pixels, using a 2x2 subsampling, and then the generated noise value applied to all pixels, using a 2x2 pel repeat. Let pic\_width = PicWidthInSamples<sub>L</sub>>> 1.

The first uniform random number pattern  $x_0(i, seed_x_0(t))$  is initialized with a seed, seed\_ $x_0(0)=3$ , at the arrival of the comfort noise SEI message. At each new frame t the uniform random number pattern is initialized to seed\_ $x_0(t)$  where seed\_ $x_0(t)=seed_x_0(t-1)+2$ .

The second uniform random number pattern  $x_1(i, seed_x_1(t))$  is initialized with seed\_ $x_1(t)$ = seed\_ $x_0(t-1)$ . This implies that  $x_1(i, seed_x_1(t)) = x_0(i, seed_x_0(t-1))$ .

Two new numbers  $UN_0(t,i)$  and  $UN_1(t,i) = UN_0(t-1,i)$  are then generated from these two patterns as follows:

```
UN_0(t,i) = x_0(i, seed_x_0(t)) \% 32 - 16

UN_1(t,i) = UN_0(t-1,i) = x_1(i, seed_x_1(t)) \% 32 - 16
```

The third uniform random number generator,  $UN_f$ , is initialized to 1 at the beginning of each displayed frame and is used to generate a fixed noise image. This number generates offsets into the Gaussian\_list[] to access a line of 8 random numbers using the following operations, where i increments for each 8 values:

```
UN_f = x(i, 1)
for n=0..7, G[n] = (Gaussian\_list[(UN_f + n)\%2048] + 1) >> 1
```

The noise value at position [r][s] of the noise image is computed as

```
m = pic_width*r+s

noise[r][s] = (w_f*G[s\%8] + w_0*UN_0(t, m) + w_1*UN_0(t-1, m) + 512) >> 10
```

where  $w_0$ ,  $w_1$ , and  $w_f$  change at the block boundaries.

For SD sequences the final noise luma\_noise is identical to noise, while for HD sequences the final noise luma\_noise is generated by performing a 2x2 upsampling of noise using pixel repetition.

```
The chroma noise is half the value of the final luma noise chroma_noise[r][s] = (luma_noise [r*2][s*2] + 1) >> 1
```

Finally comfort noise shall be added to the decoded pixels and the result shall be clipped within the range of [0, 255] for display.

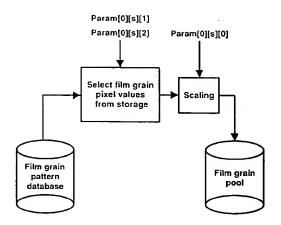


Figure 1. Film grain initialization process at SEI message receipt, performed for multiple blocks in each luma intensity interval

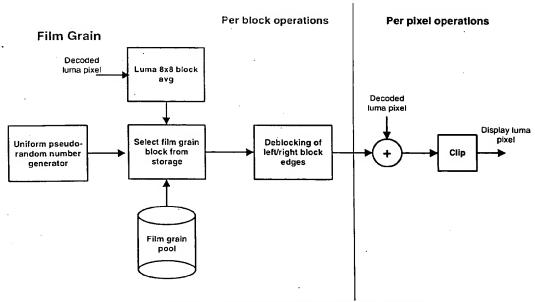


Figure 2. Film grain per block and per pixel operations

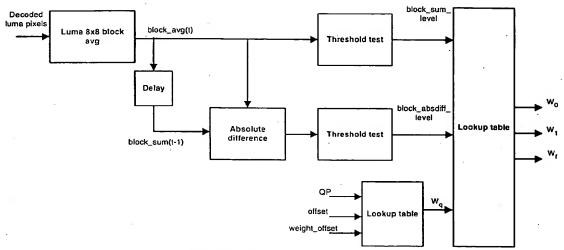
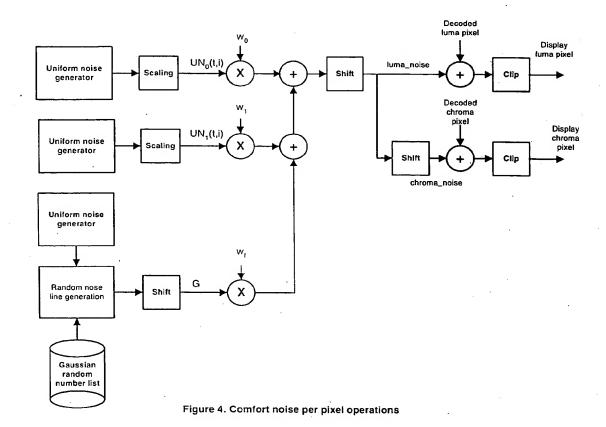


Figure 3. Comfort noise per block operations



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